



Minutes Tempe Veterans Commission April 9, 2019

Minutes of the TEMPE VETERANS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, April 9, 6:00 p.m., at the Military & Veteran Success Center, 3320 South Price Road, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Troy Friedman, Chair
William Blair
Jeremy Farr
Michelle Loposky
David Lucier
Abe McCann
Jezreel Ramirez
Joanna Sweatt

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Patricia Little-Upah
Laura Skotnicki

City Staff Present:

Parrish Spisz, Council Aide II+
Lauren Hyre, Human Services Manager
Melissa Placencia, Administrative Assistant II+

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Troy Friedman called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 3 – Attendance

Agenda Item 4 – Chair's Remarks

- Chair Troy Friedman welcomed Joanna Sweatt to the Commission
- The Commission would like presentations from Tempe Chamber, Tempe Telemedicine, and Welcome Home AZ over the course of the year.
- Troy announced Laura Skotnicki's resignation; Parrish suggested seeking a member from Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) or reaching out to Laura for a recommendation
- Troy encouraged the Commission to RSVP for meetings to ensure there is a quorum present.

Agenda Item 5 – Review and Approval of the March 19, 2019 Minutes

MOTION: Motion to APPROVE March 19, 2019 minutes by Commission Member Jeremy Farr

SECOND: Motion seconded by Commission Member Jezreel Ramirez

YAYS: Chair Troy Friedman, Commission Members William Blair, Jeremy Farr, Michelle Loposky, David Lucier, Abe McCann, Jezreel Ramirez and Joanna Sweatt

ABSENT: Patricia Little-Upah and Laura Skotnicki

Agenda Item 6 – Vice-Chair Nomination & Appointment

Jeremy announced he purchased a home and will be moving in July and will no longer qualify as an At-Large member. Commission Member William Blair offered to Vice-Chair as a backup if Jeremy is no longer able to serve.

MOTION: Motion to APPOINT Jeremy Farr as the Vice-Chair of the Tempe Veterans Commission by Commission Member Michelle Loposky

SECOND: Motion seconded by Commission Member Jezreel Ramirez

YAYS: Chair Troy Friedman, Commission Members William Blair, Jeremy Farr, Michelle Loposky, David Lucier, Abe McCann, Jezreel Ramirez and Joanna Sweatt

ABSENT: Patricia Little-Upah and Laura Skotnicki

Agenda Item 7 – Tempe Accelerates Presentation Discussion

Tempe City Council has set Strategic Priorities, which are overarching goals that are important to our City, such as creating a safe and secure community, quality of life, sustainable development and more. City of Tempe staff has worked to create Performance Measures to accomplish the Council Priorities. The Veterans Commission will present at the May 16th Tempe Accelerates on Performance Measure 3.21 Veteran-Supportive Community Designation: Support for those who Served. Abe offered to present on this with city staff as it is directly related to his work with the Arizona Coalition for Military Families.

Agenda Item 8 – 2019 Commission Goals Discussion

Troy asked that this agenda item be removed from further meetings as the Commission has already further defined its goals for 2019.

Agenda Item 9 – Mentorship Program Follow-Up – Commission Member Jeremy Farr

Jeremy gave a brief overview of the proposed mentorship program. Joanna suggested exploring a group mentorship effort. William feels the Commission should submit a formal recommendation to Mayor & City Council. Joanna will work with Jeremy on finalizing the memorandum and submit to Melissa. Any suggestions/feedback on the original draft need to be sent to Melissa; Melissa will email feedback to Jeremy. The Commission will vote on the final version at the May 7th meeting and will submit to Naomi Farrell, Human Services Director for final approval.

Agenda Item 10 – Military & Veteran Success Center Update – Chair, Troy Friedman

- Job Fair with Pipeline: May 16th
 - Focus on Student-Veterans graduating out of Maricopa Schools
 - 5-6 major employers
- The Military & Veteran Success Center recently installed flag poles, Troy is looking for a POW/MIA flag
 - Jezreel will assist in finding one

Agenda Item 11 – Commission Member Updates/Announcements

David Lucier:

- Still collecting letter of support for Fisher's House. Anyone associated with a Veterans Supportive Organization is encouraged to submit.

Abe McCann:

- 10th Annual Statewide Symposium in Support of Service Members, Veterans & Their Families: April 17th & 18th
 - Scholarships are still available. If you need a scholarship, please email Melissa

Michelle Loposky:

- Veterans Honor Stole Ceremony: May 4th
- Pat's Run: April 27th

Agenda Item 12 – Future Agenda Items – ~~May 7, 2019~~ June 4, 2019

- Proposed Mentorship Program Follow-Up
- Military & Veteran Success Center Update
- Commission Member Updates

Agenda Item 13 – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Next meeting will be on ~~May 7, 2019~~ June 4, 2019

Minutes Prepared by: Melissa Placencia

Reviewed by: Octavia Harris

Troy Friedman, Chair
Tempe Veterans Commission

